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4(Amended). A seal component as defined in claim 1, wherein the seal component comprises a seal backup spring.

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7(Amended). A seal component as defined in claim 1, wherein the seal component comprises a sealing ridge that, in use, makes sealing contact with the sealing surface.

8(Amended). A seal component as defined in claim 1, wherein the seal component has a U-shaped cross-section.

9(Amended). A seal component as defined in claim 1, wherein the shape memory alloy is selected from the group consisting of NiTi, CuZnAl and CuAlNi.

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14(Amended). A seal component as defined in claim 1, wherein the shape memory alloy comprises a one-way shape memory alloy.

15(Amended). A seal component as defined in claim 1, wherein the shape memory alloy comprises a two-way shape memory alloy.

16(Amended). A seal component as defined in claim 1, wherein the seal component comprises a bi-metallic construction.

17(Amended). A seal component as defined in claim 16, wherein the seal component comprises a U-shaped cross-section.

18(Amended). A seal component as defined in claim 1, wherein the seal component comprises a tubular cross-section.

Please add the following new claim:

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20. A seal component as defined in claim 1, wherein the seal component further comprises a corrosion-resistant material.